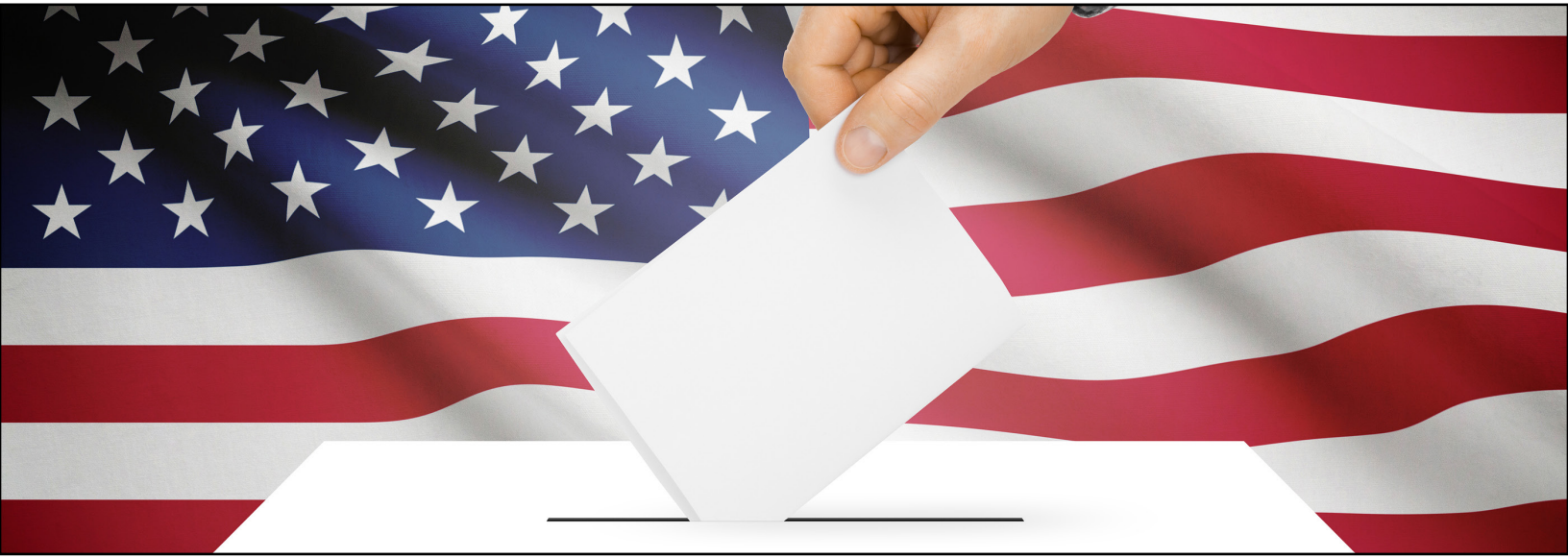




MECCA CENTER NEWSLETTER

October 2018 | Muharram 1440 - Safar 1440 | Issue 37

www.meccacenter.org



The Mecca Center President's Message

Asalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu, Dear Mecca Center Community,

Insha'Allah this message finds you and your families in the best of health and iman.

It is my privilege to make the announcement that Elections for four vacancies on the Mecca Center Board for a term of three years will be held during the General Assembly meeting at 7pm on Friday, November 2, 2018 at the Mecca Center, insha'Allah. Nomination by Members will be conducted by mail, to be followed by the election on November 2, 2018. While election is by a secret ballot, nomination is a public process. All qualified candidates will be introduced to the General Assembly at 7pm on Friday, November 2, 2018 at the Mecca Center to provide a briefing of their background and vision for the future of the Mecca Center.

For the Illinois General Election, we will have a "Meet the Candidates" event on Saturday, October 13 from 5pm to 7pm in which candidates running in the Illinois General Election on November 6 will introduce themselves and share their positions on critical issues. There will be a "Question & Answer" session after their presentations. We invite you to attend this event to learn more about candidates running for office and cannot emphasize enough the importance of exercising our right to vote as it has a tremendous impact on the prosperity of our great country.

We are also relaunching "Seekers of Knowledge," a 'Ilm course for college and young professionals with Sheikh Hassan Aly and Sheikh Tariq Musleh, on Mondays at 6pm starting October 8. The class is held weekly and covers Islamic sciences and traditions, including Fiqh, Aqeedah, Iman, and the 40 Hadith Nawawi. As we enter the fall, we encourage you to join us at the Mecca Center for our board elections and a variety of enriching programs for you and your families. Thank you and Jazakum Allahu Khairan.

Wassalamu Alaikum,

M.A. Hamadeh, MD
President, The Mecca Center



THE MECCA CENTER

PRAYER SCHEDULE

October 2018 Prayer Times | Muharram 1440 - Safar 1440

October	Muharram	Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
01	21	Mon	05:33 AM	06:47 AM	12:41 PM	03:57 PM	06:33 PM	07:49 PM
02	22	Tue	05:34 AM	06:48 AM	12:40 PM	03:56 PM	06:31 PM	07:47 PM
03	23	Wed	05:35 AM	06:49 AM	12:40 PM	03:55 PM	06:29 PM	07:45 PM
04	24	Thu	05:36 AM	06:50 AM	12:40 PM	03:54 PM	06:27 PM	07:43 PM
05	25	Fri	05:37 AM	06:51 AM	12:39 PM	03:52 PM	06:26 PM	07:42 PM
06	26	Sat	05:38 AM	06:52 AM	12:39 PM	03:51 PM	06:24 PM	07:40 PM
07	27	Sun	05:39 AM	06:53 AM	12:39 PM	03:50 PM	06:22 PM	07:38 PM
08	28	Mon	05:40 AM	06:55 AM	12:38 PM	03:49 PM	06:21 PM	07:37 PM
09	29	Tue	05:41 AM	06:56 AM	12:38 PM	03:47 PM	06:19 PM	07:35 PM
October	Safar	Day						
10	1	Wed	05:42 AM	06:57 AM	12:38 PM	03:46 PM	06:17 PM	07:34 PM
11	2	Thu	05:43 AM	06:58 AM	12:38 PM	03:45 PM	06:16 PM	07:32 PM
12	3	Fri	05:45 AM	06:59 AM	12:37 PM	03:44 PM	06:14 PM	07:30 PM
13	4	Sat	05:46 AM	07:00 AM	12:37 PM	03:42 PM	06:13 PM	07:29 PM
14	5	Sun	05:47 AM	07:01 AM	12:37 PM	03:41 PM	06:11 PM	07:27 PM
15	6	Mon	05:48 AM	07:02 AM	12:37 PM	03:40 PM	06:09 PM	07:26 PM
16	7	Tue	05:49 AM	07:04 AM	12:37 PM	03:39 PM	06:08 PM	07:24 PM
17	8	Wed	05:50 AM	07:05 AM	12:36 PM	03:37 PM	06:06 PM	07:23 PM
18	9	Thu	05:51 AM	07:06 AM	12:36 PM	03:36 PM	06:05 PM	07:21 PM
19	10	Fri	05:52 AM	07:07 AM	12:36 PM	03:35 PM	06:03 PM	07:20 PM
20	11	Sat	05:53 AM	07:08 AM	12:36 PM	03:34 PM	06:02 PM	07:18 PM
21	12	Sun	05:54 AM	07:09 AM	12:36 PM	03:33 PM	06:00 PM	07:17 PM
22	13	Mon	05:55 AM	07:11 AM	12:35 PM	03:32 PM	05:59 PM	07:16 PM
23	14	Tue	05:56 AM	07:12 AM	12:35 PM	03:30 PM	05:57 PM	07:14 PM
24	15	Wed	05:58 AM	07:13 AM	12:35 PM	03:29 PM	05:56 PM	07:13 PM
25	16	Thu	05:59 AM	07:14 AM	12:35 PM	03:28 PM	05:54 PM	07:12 PM
26	17	Fri	06:00 AM	07:15 AM	12:35 PM	03:27 PM	05:53 PM	07:10 PM
27	18	Sat	06:01 AM	07:16 AM	12:35 PM	03:26 PM	05:52 PM	07:09 PM
28	19	Sun	06:02 AM	07:18 AM	12:35 PM	03:25 PM	05:50 PM	07:08 PM
29	20	Mon	06:03 AM	07:19 AM	12:35 PM	03:24 PM	05:49 PM	07:07 PM
30	21	Tue	06:04 AM	07:20 AM	12:35 PM	03:23 PM	05:48 PM	07:05 PM
31	22	Wed	06:05 AM	07:21 AM	12:35 PM	03:22 PM	05:46 PM	07:04 PM

Iqama Times

Fajr 30 minutes after Adhan	Dhuhr 1:15 PM	Asr Oct. 1-15: 5:00 PM Oct. 16-31 4:30 PM	Maghrib 5 minutes after sunset	Isha 8:00 PM	Jummah Friday prayer always at 1:00 PM
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Reflections on Justice In Islam by Sheikh Hassan Aly

The Mecca Center's Imam and Religious Director, Sh. Hassan Aly, recently spoke about justice in Islam for the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) event "Pursuing Justice in our Community" on September 16, 2018 at the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago in Burr Ridge, Illinois. This event was part of the CRLMC Festival of Faiths series.

A diverse group of faith leaders spoke on the concept of justice in their religions including Mr. Devendra Trivedi from Chinmaya Mission (Hindu), Ven. Ajahn Thapakom from Wat Buddha - Dhamma (Buddhist), Mr. Hosi from Mehta Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (Zoroastrian), Dr. Hema Pokharna from Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (Jain), and Fr. Theodore Labib from St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church (Christian).

The group also engaged in an interfaith garden-planting ceremony where representatives of each congregation planted a rose bush in a commemorative Interfaith Garden. Sh. Hassan shared about the concept of justice in Islam by citing Hadith and a number of verses from the Quran including:

"There are seven categories of people whom Allah will shelter under His shade on the Day when there will be no shade except His. [The first one is] the just leader." - The Prophet Muhammad (sa)

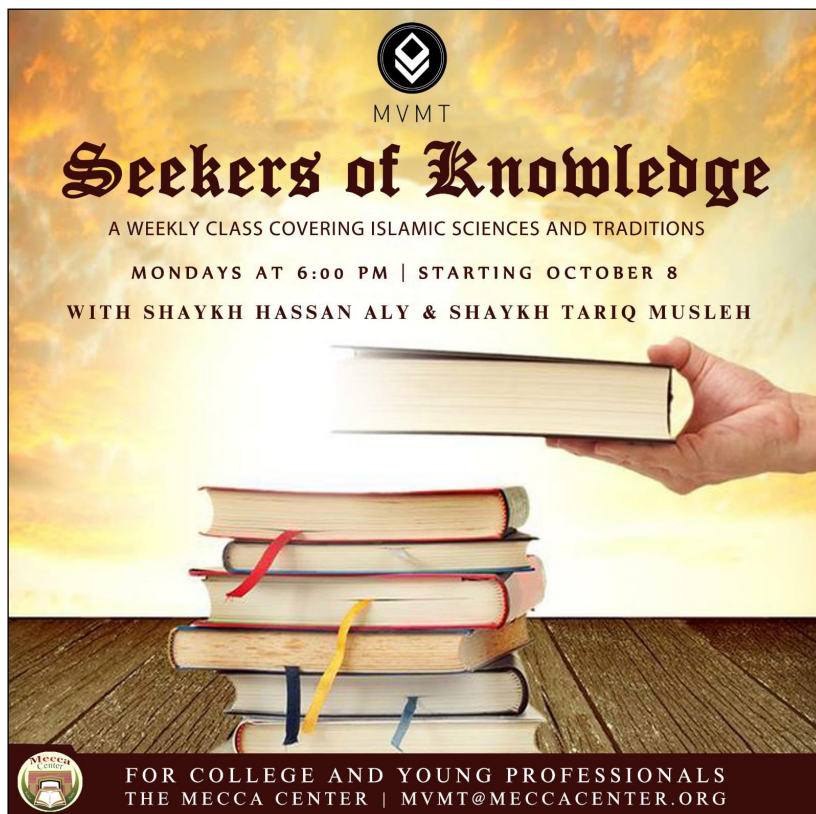
"O My slaves, I have forbidden injustice for Myself and forbade it also for you. So avoid being unjust to one another." (Saheeh Muslim)

"Allah commands justice and fair dealing..." (Quran 16:90). And in another passage: "O you who believe, be upright for Allah, and (be) bearers of witness with justice!..." (Quran 5:8)

"We sent Our Messengers with clear signs and sent down with them the Book and the Measure in order to establish justice among the people..." (Quran 57:25)

"O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even if it be against yourselves, your parents, and your relatives, or whether it is against the rich or the poor..." (Quran 4:135)

"Let not the hatred of a people swerve you away from justice. Be just, for this is closest to righteousness..." (Quran 5:8)



The Mecca Center recently received **Silver Certification** from MUHSEN (Muslims Understanding and Helping Special Education Needs) for our commitment to serving the needs of our diverse membership.

The Mecca Center Sunday School: Principal's Message

Assalamu Alaikum, Dear Mecca Center Community,

The Mecca Center Sunday School is off to a great start to the 2018-2019 school year! Alhamdulillah, our 300 enrolled students have all been placed in their appropriate classes and inshaAllah are getting accustomed to the weekly routines and are feeling more at home every week. The following are some procedures for our Mecca Sunday School that families and visitors to the center should be aware of:



- 1) The morning assembly begins at 9:45 am, and we kindly ask for the students are in the gym before we begin. In order to encourage punctuality and school attendance, those students who come on time will receive a stamp, which will be converted to points by their 1st period teachers.
- 2) Since the older students are attending classes on the lower level in the morning, they will be having lunch first at 11:30 am while the elementary students 1st through 5th grade are in the gym for recess. They will then switch with the elementary students, who will have their lunch at 11:50 am.
- 3) Duhr prayer at the Mecca Center is at 1:15 pm, which is different from the Sunday School prayer time. We make the iqamah for Salat at 2:00 pm until Sunday, November 4th when we fall back one hour, and the iqamah will then be after lunch at 12:15 pm.
- 4) All dismissal is from the main floor: preschool and kindergarten students will be with their teachers in the lobby area, while all other students will be dismissed from assembly. We kindly request no parents on the second floor and entrance to the masjid is from the back door. The front doors will be locked.
- 5) Early dismissal requests need to be in writing to either the teacher (via text or WhatsApp), or to administration (text or email). Due to the students making wudu' and preparing for Duhr prayer, we will not be granting early dismissal requests after 1:45 pm.

Warm regards,

Linda Hamadeh, M.Ed., Ed.D.
Mecca Center Sunday School Principal



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Please contact communications@meccacenter.org for availability and rates

Mecca Quran Institute: New year, fresh start!

By Rana Abu Daoud

The Mecca Quran Institute (MQI) recently held its first teacher development seminar featuring several experts in the fields of education, psychology, and curriculum design including Sheikh Ahmed Alsheikhi, Hadia Zarzour, Dr. Mutaz Alabd, and Hazim Junaid.

Ustadh Junaid explained the process of learning new strategies for active learning and introduced many ways for students to develop a passion for education. He also spoke about the importance of students having a passion for learning and going to school, and how it affects them in their daily lives.

Sheikh Ahmed gave a lecture about the skills required to teach Quran using the Bidaya book, how to manage halaqat, create a strong relationship between the student and the holy Quran, and how to make it an effective way to understand and practice Quran in life. Doctor Hadia Zarzour shared about responding to behavior patterns in adolescents as well as understanding the characteristics of students as individuals. She went on to explain how learning about their personalities helps greatly with instruction. She also shared multiple ways to teach the Quran, the Seerah, Arabic, the Hadith, and Fiqh. Dr. Mutaz Alabd closed out the seminar by presenting on Islamic studies curriculum and how to adopt new teaching perspectives that empower both the teachers and students in learning.

Last month was also the beginning of the year for our dear students. We have a great number of students in elementary, middle, and high school. All of the students have been divided into three levels: learning the Arabic alphabet and words, reading slowly, then once they've become advanced readers they move up to the third level, learning memorization skills. When they have finished all three levels, they are ready to begin their journey of memorizing the whole Quran. The Sahib Al Quran program continued their system of high level memorization and testing, along with Tafseer and explanations of important words in the Quran.

In September, students were tested on everything they had memorized in the past year. The students put all their effort into passing this test. May Allah (swt) shower them with reward and acceptance. Also, MQI offers many programs for adults, men, women, and new college graduate women, starting with reading levels, and going through memorizing and ijazah. We encourage you to visit www.meccacenter.org/quran-institute for more information and register for MQI classes!



The Mecca Quran Institute
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COLLEGE AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: SUNDAYS 9:00AM - 10:30AM

STARTING SEPTEMBER 29



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Sandwiches

Wrap

Steak	\$ 5.00
Kifta Kabab	\$ 5.00
Beef Shawarma	\$ 5.00
Chicken Shawarma	\$ 5.00
Chicken Tender	\$ 4.00
Falafel	\$ 4.00

Taiyba Meza's



Price

Fried Kebbeh	كبة مقوية	\$1.50
Labanyeh Kebbeh	كبة لبنية	\$2.00
Grilled Kebbeh	كبة مشوية	\$3.00
Syrian Ouzi wraps	أوزي باللحمة	\$2.50
Beef Sambusek	سيموسك لحمة	\$1.25
Cheese Pie	فطائر جبنة	\$1.00
Spinach Pie	فطائر سبانخ	\$1.25
Saffiha	صفحة شامية أو مضمورة	\$1.75
Musakhan	مسخن دجاج	\$1.55
Za'tar Pie	فطيرة زعتر	\$1.00
Chicken Roll	رول دجاج	\$1.50
Hot Dogs Roll	رول نقاق	\$2.00
Muhamara Pie	فطيرة محمرة	\$1.00
Falafel	فلافل	\$4.00/Dozen

Appetizers

Half Tray

Full Tray

Hummus ——— حمص
\$18.00 \$35.00
A blend of chickpeas mixed with tahini, topped with olive oil and spices, served as a cold dip with pita bread.

Baba Ghanoush/Mutabal ——— متبل ا باب غنوج
\$20.00 \$35.00
Char-broiled eggplant, mashed and blended with tahini, yogurt and parsley, topped with olive oil and spices, served as a cold dip with pita bread.

Salad ——— سلطة
\$15.00 \$30.00
Freshly diced tomatoes, cucumbers and parsley, and the dressing is tahini sauce.

Tabbouleh Salad ——— تبولة
\$20.00 \$40.00
Freshly diced tomatoes, onions, parsley, green peppers and cracked wheat tossed in olive oil and lemon juice.

Fattoush Salad ——— فتوش
\$15.00 \$30.00
Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers onions, parsley, and green peppers are tossed in our house vinaigrette and topped with our homemade pita croutons.

Muhamara Dip ——— محمرة
\$20.00 \$40.00
Walnut, red pepper, hot sauce, onions, Tahine sauce, parmiganate concentrate and breadstick crumbs.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Kebab Hindi ——— كباب هندي
\$40.00 \$80.00
Oven baked ground beef kebab with diced tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, and green pepper.

Stuffed Vegetables ——— محاشي مشكلة
\$40.00 \$80.00
Zucchini, eggplant and green pepper stuffed with rice and lamb.

Grape Vine and Zucchini ——— برقي
\$45.00 \$90.00
Stuffed grape leaves and zucchini with rice and lamb.

Stuffed Cabbage ——— ملفوف بطنه
\$40.00 \$80.00
Cabbage leaves stuffed with rice and beef, and cooked in authentic cumin and pomegranate sauce.

Fava Beans and Rice ——— رز بالفلول الأخضر بالتحم
\$40.00 \$80.00
Fava beans with rice topped with lamb shanks.

Freekeh ——— فريكة باللحمة أو بالدجاج
\$45.00 \$90.00
Freekeh cooked with lamb or chicken.

Mnazaleh ——— منزلة بالندجان
\$40.00 \$80.00
Oven baked stuffed eggplant with minced meat, onions and tomato sauce.

Stuffed fried zucchini ——— شيخ المحشي
\$40.00 \$80.00
Fried zucchini stuffed with minced meat and onions then oven baked in yogurt.

Makloubah ——— مقلوبة فلسطينية
\$40.00 \$80.00
Potatoes, cauliflower and carrots with rice topped with roasted chicken legs.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Damascus's Makloubah ——— مقلوبة شامية
\$40.00 \$80.00
Fried eggplant and lamb over specially spiced rice.

Damascus's Mulokhia w/ Chicken ——— ملوخية بالدجاج
\$40.00 \$80.00
Molokhia whole leaves, garlic, and fresh cilantro topped with chicken.

Lamb Shank ——— لحم موزات بالعظم
\$50.00 \$100.00
Lamb shank (leg) with cooked vegetables and tomato sauce.

Layerd Kebbeh ——— كبة بالصنينة
\$20.00 \$40.00
Kebbeh(burghul, beef) layerd with beef and nuts.

Palestinian Ouzi w/Chicken ——— أوزي فلسطينية بالدجاج
\$40.00 \$80.00
Mixed Vegetables cooked with rice topped with chicken legs.

Meatloaf ——— لحمة بالصحن
\$35.00 \$70.00
Oven cooked beef with garlic topped with green peppers and tomatoes.

Lasagna ——— لازانيا بالخضار أو اللحم
\$35.00 \$70.00
Layered lasagna with ground beef, onions, green peppers, tomato sauce, olive oil and Italian seasoning, topped with mozzarella cheese.

Chicken Alfredo ——— معرودة الفريو بالدجاج
\$30.00 \$60.00
Chicken and Fettuccine pasta cooked in Alfredo sauce.

Entrée

Half Tray

Full Tray

Okra ——— بامية
\$30.00 \$60.00
Okra cooked with beef in tomato sauce, topped with green cilantro.

Mandi Yemeni ——— مندي يمني بالدجاج
\$35.00 \$70.00
Whole roasted chicken cooked with rice and dried raisins and special spices.

Biryani ——— برياني بالدجاج
\$35.00 \$70.00
Rice cooked in special sauce topped with chicken.

Shishburak ——— شيشبرك
\$40.00 \$80.00
Lebanese version of Italian tortellini stuffed with beef cooked with yogurt.

Kabsah w/Chicken ——— كبسة بالدجاج
\$35.00 \$70.00
Rice, onions, tomatoes, green peppers and our special spices, topped with lamb or chicken.

Mansaf ——— منسف أردني بالتحم
\$40.00 \$80.00
Lamb Shank boiled in dry yogurt with special spices served with rice.

Yalanji ——— يالانجي
\$40.00 \$80.00
Steamed grape leaves stuffed with vegetables, and seasoned rice, served cold.

Spaghetti and Meatballs ——— معرودة سباغيتي بكرات اللحم
\$30.00 \$60.00
Spaghetti noodles, Italian seasoning, and tomato sauce with meatballs.



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The Mecca Center invites community members to a “Meet the Candidates” event for the upcoming Illinois General Election on November 6. Candidates running have been asked to introduce themselves and share their positions on critical issues. There will be a “Question & Answer” session after their presentations.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018

5pm-7pm • The Mecca Center • 16W560 91st St., Willowbrook



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GEMS OF *Juz Amma*

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